

Newburgh News of Note

VOL. VIII ISSUE III

SUMMER 2006

Moving the Seat of Government

As is custom in the United Kingdom, the nation of our Sister City, a lone bagpiper, led the procession. The Sons of the American Revolution, the Newburgh Town Council, the Clerk-Treasurer, staff, citizens, and friends



Bagpiper Mary Fanning leads the Color Guard and the Town Council to the new town hall.

from our Sister City in the U.K. followed one block south as the colors of the United States and the State of Indiana, as well as the seat of government, were moved from the former town hall at 200 State Street to the new location at 23 West Jennings Street. After over forty years of service as the Town Hall, the former Cumberland Presbyterian Church relinquished that role as of July 19, 2006. The ceremonial procession and the actual, as well as symbolic, moving of the seat of government has been a long time in the making. A location for a town hall suitable to meet the needs of the community and its citizens has been considered for over fifteen years.

Finally in August 2004, the Town purchased the property at 23 West Jennings Street from the Ohio Township Library Board. This served a two-fold purpose: it ensured a town core location for local government and the continuation of a downtown branch of the library system. Universal Design Associates and ARC Construction, Inc. have been working diligently to transform the space at the Jennings Street location to efficient, effective government offices. Though the first meeting was held July 19, the move of the Clerk-Treasurer's office and town administrative offices will not occur until late September.

The Community Focus Fund grant application process for the former town hall will be complete in September 2006 and, pending the award, construction should begin this winter on the rehabilitation of that grand structure.



Town Council President Bill Kavanaugh carries the gavel and leads the other council members in the ceremonial move.



New Officer Joins Newburgh Police Force

The Newburgh Police Department would like to announce that Johnny R. Locke has joined the department. On June 30, 2006, Johnny was sworn in as a Patrolman in a ceremony held at the Newburgh Town Hall. Johnny will be training with various Field Training Officers throughout the department over the next few months.

Johnny was an officer with the Oakland City Police

Department before coming to Newburgh. He was born and raised in Illinois and lived in Evansville prior to moving to Oakland City. He is a graduate of ITT Technical Institute and the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy.

Councilman Robert F. Seibert Resigns

Councilman Bob Seibert resigned from his seat on the Newburgh Town Council effective August 1, 2006, during his third term representing District III. Due to his move outside the corporate limits of Newburgh, his resignation was necessary. Most recently Bob served as Council 2nd Vice President, Park Commissioner, liaison to the Air Board, and on the Construction Standards Committee.

Bob faithfully served this community and its citizens for over fourteen years. Thank you, Bob.



News from the Clerk-Treasurer

It's budget time. It happens the same time every year as students, parents, and teachers are preparing to start back to school. At Newburgh Town Hall the Clerk-Treasurer, department heads, and staff are working through the process of preparing the 2007 budget. This process begins in June when initial budget requests are considered and taken to the Finance Committee. Then, the numbers are crunched, and a draft is presented to the Department of Local Government Finance for review and revision, if necessary.

The proposed 2007 budget is published in the Newburgh Register and the Boonville Standard on two separate publication dates. A public hearing will be held August 23 at the Newburgh Town Council meeting held at Town Hall, 23 W. Jennings. This hearing allows public input in the budget process.



On September 13, the Town Council will be presented Ordinance 2006-26 for adoption. By enacting this ordinance, the 2007 budget will be adopted. Once approved by the Council, the Warrick County Auditor and the State of Indiana review and approve the budget.

This budget process is designed to ensure that the residents of Newburgh receive the maximum benefit of available tax dollars.

Becky Gentry, Clerk-Treasurer

Sister Cities International

On September 11, 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower held a Citizen Diplomacy Summit at the White House which laid the framework for Sister Cities International, an organization designed to promote grassroots diplomacy among citizens. Eisenhower believed the path to world peace could best be achieved not with generals and soldiers, but by bringing together ordinary citizens from different countries who may, on the surface, appear to have nothing in common. He believed that even if these people spent just a short time together, they would find that they had much in common and would go away with a positive outlook about that person and his/her country.

In Washington, D.C, this July, 1200 delegates to the 50th annual Sister Cities International Conference (SCI) greeted Eisenhower's granddaughter, Mary Jean Eisenhower, by waving pennants reading "We Still Like Ike," a reference to her grandfather's popular campaign slogan. Ms. Eisenhower recalled, as a child visiting the White House, hearing her grandfather talk about how important citizen diplomacy is. Today, she serves as the director of People to People, an organization which also began at the Summit, dedicated to bringing individuals together, much like Sister Cities brings communities together.

Newburgh has been associated with Sister Cities International since 1992, when Town Councilman B. Gene Aurand and his wife, Anne Rust Aurand, traveled to Newburgh, England to officially "twin" our two towns. It seemed only natural when Sister Cities International announced it would be honoring elected officials who have been instrumental in developing and sustaining relationships, that the Aurands be nominated. Gene served on the council for nine years, until his death in 2001. Anne succeeded him and is currently serving her fifth year on the council. Town Council President Bill Kavanaugh received notice last winter that both Aurands had been selected to be honored by the first ever Local Government Leadership Circle for Sister Cities International.

Anne was met in D.C. by Newburgh, England Parish Council Chair Reginald Porter and his wife, Shirley, who shared five days of workshops, festivities, honors, and citizen diplomacy. The Porters were delighted to meet and share lunch with Indiana Senator Richard Lugar, who remembered signing a proclamation for their town's 700th birthday in 2004.

Reg Porter addresses the Town Council and citizens at the July 19 meeting.



The Porters returned with Mrs. Aurand to Newburgh, Indiana and reported on their Sister Cities conference activities at the July 19 Town Council meeting.

The Town of Newburgh would like to thank the following for their generous support of our commitment to Sister Cities International by making attendance at this conference possible: Alcoa Warrick, Commonwealth Engineers, H. J. Umbaugh, Newburgh National Bank, Old National Bank, and Vectren Foundation.

Anne Rust Aurand

NVFD

The Newburgh Volunteer Fire Department is proudly serving the community with thirty four members. So far this year, emergency calls have totaled 186, which is above average. Most of these calls have been for medical assistance to the Warrick County EMS, which is housed at the Newburgh Fire Station. Other calls include vehicular accidents, alarms, and actual fires. The department also assists other area fire departments as back up. Regardless of the type of emergency, the volunteer firefighters are ready and proud to respond in a matter of minutes anytime day or night.

As disasters strike our community and nationwide, a group that formed after 9/11 called the "New York Says Thank You Foundation" has traveled nationwide to assist communities. On the weekend of September 11, 2006, the group made up of volunteers from the New York Fire Department will be in Degonia Springs in Warrick County to help rebuild Bakers Chapel which was destroyed in the November 6, 2005 tornado. Individuals wishing to become involved can contact the Newburgh Fire Department at 853.7651.

The NVFD will be participating in a county-wide disaster drill in September. Several members of the department have been attending additional training schools, and Chief Lueken has just returned from the Indiana Fire Chiefs conference in Indianapolis.

The NVFD thanks the citizens for their support throughout the years and looks forward to providing fire protection needs to the community for years to come. The NVFD is continually looking for additional volunteers. Men or women who would like to become involved, please visit www.newburghfire.com or contact the Newburgh station at 853.7651. Greg Lueken, Newburgh Fire Chief

Newburgh Officials

TOWN COUNCIL

District I Pres. Wm F. Kavanaugh 853.3050

District II Ken Hughes 858.5028

District III vacant

District IV Anne Rust Aurand 853.7538

Council-at-Large Shari Sherman 853.5447

Clerk-Treasurer Becky Gentry 853.7111

ADMINISTRATION

Town Attorney R. Thomas Bodkin 425.1591

Town Manager Cynthia E. Burger 853.3578

Zoning Administrator Frank Hijuelos 853.2728

SEWER DEPARTMENT

Business Office 853.7496

WWTF Superintendent Leon Key

STREET DEPARTMENT

Superintendent John Fischer 853.6648

POLICE

Emergency only 911 Information 853.1723

FIRE

Emergency only 911 Information 853.7651

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT/MAIN STREET

Historic Newburgh, Inc 853.2815

Wastewater Treatment Facility

Two new employees have been added to the Collection System Operations and Maintenance area of the department: Jarrod Carter and Donald Cline. Welcome!

Congratulations are in order for Collection System Supervisor Wayne Bradley and Collection System Assistant Supervisor Russell Powell for passing their Collection System 2 Operators License and for Plant operator/Lab Technician Heath Dill for obtaining his IDEM Class B Industrial Certification.

Leon Key, Wastewater Treatment Facility Superintendent, continues to promote continuing education and professional certification within the department. Shari Sherman, Utility Commissioner



THE OLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

Historic properties have a way of disappearing. They quietly fall prey to demolition, neglect, or renovations that alter them beyond recognition. Building by building, site by site, the evidence of a town like Newburgh's heritage can gradually be lost through private and public action and **inaction**. This loss takes away much of a town's beauty, character, charm, and vitality.

Historic properties need careful planning and management in order to ensure their survival for future generations. The historic buildings of Newburgh are tangible and steadfast evidence of the rich and fascinating history of our wonderful town. The Newburgh Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and the Town Council have done a superb job in trying to maintain the delicate balance of preservation and progress. The HPC has recently approved new *Preservation Guidelines* which make it much clearer to owners what may or may not be done to their home or building. The guidelines also make the process significantly less complicated and time consuming for our citizens.

A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is the approval granted by the HPC to a property owner for proposed improvements to the exterior of a structure or a site located within a Historic District. The "old" system required notifying neighbors, newspaper advertisements, and an HPC hearing. In most cases, the Zoning Administrator can now issue a COA for improvements that are designated as "appropriate" within the new guidelines. State law still requires HPC review for the demolition of a building, the moving of a building, the construction of an addition, and the construction of a new building.

Within the next few weeks, every resident within the Newburgh Historic Districts will be mailed a copy of the new guidelines. Following this, the HPC will host a public informational forum to explain and discuss the new guidelines and address any other issues of Historic Preservation. The guidelines are presently available on the Town website www.newburgh-in.gov. The Historic Preservation Commission is not simply an agency that makes and enforces rules and regulations but is a valuable resource for homeowners. The HPC and the Zoning Administrator are readily available to provide answers, information, and assistance for all things relating to historic preservation.

Frank Hijuelos, Zoning Administrator

THE COST OF POLLUTION

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has stated that storm water runoff is a major source of water pollution in our country, causing significant damage to our lakes, rivers, and streams. In order to address this situation, the EPA has instituted a program called MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems). This program is designed to reduce the amount of sediment and pollution that enters surface and ground water from storm sewer systems. MS4 is federally mandated and involves six different pollution control measures:

- ❖ Public education and outreach,
- ❖ Public participation and involvement,
- ❖ Illicit (non-storm water) discharge, detection, and elimination,
- ❖ Construction site runoff control,
- ❖ Post construction site runoff control, and
- ❖ Pollution prevention and good housekeeping.



Unfortunately **NO** federal or state funds have been designated to assist local communities like Newburgh in complying with this mandate. In order to fund MS4, an increase in the storm water service charge, which appears on your water bill, was required of the Town. You will soon be receiving a monthly increase from \$2.00 to \$5.00 for residential users. For commercial and other non-residential users, the service charge will be determined by the amount of impervious area and a calculation based on Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs).

Please contact the Zoning Administrator at 853.2728 with any questions and for further information concerning MS4 or the storm water rate increase.

Frank A. Hijuelos, MS4 Coordinator

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is a quarterly publication of the Town of Newburgh. It is delivered to citizens of the town to provide information for greater access and input on the operation of governmental services.

Prepared by Cynthia E. Burger, Town Manager

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Newburgh Elementary School Renovation

The Warrick County School Corporation has embarked upon a major renovation and addition to Newburgh Elementary School. Construction has just begun in the last few weeks. Substantial completion for this wonderful project for our students and teachers is scheduled for the start of the 07-08 school year.

The renovation will provide additional classrooms, including rooms to accommodate additional kindergarten classes, renovated office area, a new gymnasium, a renovated and expanded kitchen, and increased parking for school events. The re-configured parking lot will provide for much safer ingress and egress for students, teachers, and parents.

The project covering the ditch north of the school, a joint effort between the Town of Newburgh and the Warrick County School Corporation, has been incorporated into the overall renovation project.